

From: Carrie Wehling/DC/USEPA/US
Sent: 1/12/2012 12:38:59 PM
To: Pooja Parikh/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: FYI Dimock press

Caroline (Carrie) Wehling
SDWA team leader
Office of General Counsel, Water Law Office
U.S. EPA, Washington, D.C.
Mail Code 2355A
email: wehling.carrie@epa.gov
phone: 202-564-5492
fax: 202-564-5477

----- Forwarded by Carrie Wehling/DC/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 12:38 PM -----

From: Earl Salo/DC/USEPA/US
To: John Michaud/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Carrie Wehling/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Mindy Kairis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: James Bove/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 12:36 PM
Subject: Fw: Dimock press etc.

Earl Salo
Assistant General Counsel for Superfund
Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office
Office of General Counsel (2366A)
USEPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington D.C. 20460
202-564-5504 Fax 202-564-5531

----- Forwarded by Earl Salo/DC/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 12:35 PM -----

From: Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US
To: Karin Leff/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Earl Salo/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Bernadette Rappold/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 10:40 AM
Subject: Dimock press etc.

Cecil Rodrigues, Chief
Office of Remediation Enforcement
Office of Regional Counsel
EPA Region III
215-814-2683

----- Forwarded by Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 10:39 AM -----

From: Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US
To: Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Heather Gray/R3/USEPA/US, Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Victoria Binetti/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Wilkie/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Gerald Heston/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 06:42 AM
Subject: FYI!

FYI -- The region rec'd this information yesterday re a press conference being held in Phila on Friday re Dimock by Frack Action, the org that provided the alternate water early in the week; it is being held outside the Academy of Nat'l Sciences where the Administrator is scheduled to do an event.

In addition, the region rec'd yesterday the official letter submitted to the Adm by Sandra Steingraben re Dimock. HQ is responding to it.

joan

Subject: Advisory: Press Conference Friday 9 AM Urging EPA to send Water to Dimock

Contact: Iris Marie Bloom, Director, Protecting Our Waters (215) 840-6489 protectingourwaters@gmail.com

Ana Tinsly, Communications Director, Frack Action (646) 331-4765 ana@frackaction.com

***Dimock Residents, Public Health and Environmental Advocates Urge EPA to Send Water to Dimock:
"These families must not endure another day without access to safe drinking water!"***

Who: Residents of Dimock, Protecting Our Waters, Frack Action

What: Morning rally and press conference:

1. Demonstration asking EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to "do the right thing" by delivering clean water to victims of gas industry water contamination
2. Press Conference featuring residents of Dimock, PA, including Craig and Julie Sautner; and public health and environmental advocates

When: Friday, January 13, 2012

8:30am: Rally

9:00am: Press Conference,

9:30am: Lisa Jackson speaks at Town Hall (inside)

Where: outside Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Background: Nineteen families in Dimock, Pennsylvania have suffered from contaminated drinking water for over three years. Despite enormous pressure brought to bear on them to sign a legal agreement requiring them to fall silent regarding their drinking water contamination, caused by Cabot Oil and Gas, eleven of the families have not signed a "non-disclosure clause" and therefore have maintained their freedom of speech. In December the EPA received documents showing the intensity and toxicity of these families' drinking water contamination. The EPA has responded by telling the families, according to Craig Sautner, that "they absolutely don't want us using our [water] wells at all."

Yet Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has not only reneged on a promise made by former PA DEP Secretary John Hanger to provide all the affected families with a clean and permanent supply of drinking water, but it has allowed Cabot to cease providing safe clean drinking waters for these families. The families are becoming increasingly desperate, since Cabot's last delivery was on November 30th.

Last week, several of the Dimock families received phone calls from EPA Region 3, based in Philadelphia, assuring them that EPA would begin delivering safe clean water to them by Friday or Saturday. No delivery has happened and the EPA has, at this time, backed down from that promise.

"Water is a fundamental human right," said Alex Allen, Associate Director of Protecting Our Waters.

Biologist, author and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber wrote a letter signed by 26 physicians and health professionals on Monday, December 9th (attached), which said, "we call on EPA to assure that the families of Dimock do not endure another day without access to safe drinking water."

A partial list of the contaminants in the drinking water of Dimock is

here: <http://protectingourwaters.wordpress.com/2011/12/06/protecting-our-waters-goes-to-dimock-whats-in-their-safe-water/> and a list of contaminants specifically in the Sautners' water is here (scroll down): <http://protectingourwaters.wordpress.com/2012/01/10/urgent-comment-by-5-pm-wednesday-11112-on-new-york-state-impact-statement/>

###

--

Iris Marie Bloom

Director, Protecting Our Waters protectingourwaters.com

Phone: 215.840.6489 ~ Email: protectingourwaters@gmail.com

----- Forwarded by Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 10:39 AM -----

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US

To: Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Nishitani/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Donna Heron/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Bonnie Smith <smith.bonnie@epa.gov>, Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Early/R3/USEPA/US, Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Amy Johansen/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Stacie Driscoll/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Trish Taylor/R3/USEPA/US, capacasa.jon@epa.gov, Thomas Damm/CBP/USEPA/US@EPA, Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Brendan Gilfillan/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Smith/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 01/12/2012 07:19 AM

Subject: Scranton Times Tribune (1-12) Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

Dimock supporters to take water plea to EPA chief

By Laura Legere (Staff Writer)

Published: January 12, 2012

Supporters of Dimock Twp. families at odds with a Marcellus Shale driller over water contamination plan to take their plea for fresh drinking water to the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson is scheduled to participate in a 9:30 a.m. talk about urban sustainability at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

Dimock residents as well as environmental and public health advocates plan to rally outside beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The rally follows a letter sent by 26 doctors and health professionals to Ms. Jackson on Tuesday asking her to investigate contamination in Dimock and provide emergency drinking water to the residents. State officials have found that Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. allowed methane to seep from faulty Marcellus Shale natural gas wells into 18 Dimock water supplies - a contention Cabot denies. Recent tests of the residents' water wells have revealed other contaminants, including metals, surfactants, glycols and solvents.

After years of delivering replacement bulk and bottled water to the residents, Cabot received state approval to stop the deliveries on Dec. 1.

"We believe that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should step in to protect local residents if a driller jeopardizes drinking water supplies and the state government does not act," the doctors and health professionals wrote to Ms. Jackson.

The EPA seemed poised to provide such emergency water supplies last Friday when several agency officials called to arrange deliveries of bulk water to several Dimock residents whose methane-tainted well water the state has linked to nearby natural gas drilling.

EPA reversed course on Saturday and has said it has not made a decision to provide water.

Contact the writer: llegere@timeshamrock.com

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

----- Forwarded by Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 10:39 AM -----

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
To: Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Nishitani/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Donna Heron/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Bonnie Smith <smith.bonnie@epa.gov>, Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Early/R3/USEPA/US, Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Amy Johansen/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Stacie Driscoll/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Trish Taylor/R3/USEPA/US, capacasa.jon@epa.gov, Thomas Damm/CBP/USEPA/US@EPA, Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Brendan Gilfillan/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Smith/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 07:27 AM
Subject: Scranton Times Tribune (1-12) Editorial: 'Rudimentary' regulation

Editorial: Rudimentary regulation

January 12, 2011

The Corbett administration's top environmental officer contends that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is not "up to speed" regarding contaminated well water in Dimock Twp., Susquehanna County.

Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. has stopped delivering clean water to some residents in Dimock Twp. who contend that nearby gas drilling has fouled their wells. The state Department of Environmental Protection, headed by Michael Krancer, has signed off on that decision. The EPA has decided to resume investigating, prompting Mr. Krancer's assertion that the federal agency has only a "rudimentary" understanding of the situation.

Well, when it comes to the impacts of natural gas drilling, Michael Krancer, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, knows a great deal about not being "up to speed."

An analysis by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has found that Mr. Krancer's agency does not have records for 495 wells that are producing or are about to produce gas.

By the DEP's own estimate, that's about 12 percent of all gas wells statewide, a substantial error rate given that the agency is supposed to craft permits and inspect every well.

Of those 495 wells, 182 do not even appear on the state's Marcellus Shale well permit list, raising the rudimentary question of how the agency is supposed to determine if those wells comply with permit conditions.

The DEP's failure to account for the wells will be even more problematic if the Legislature ever gets around to

passing a severance tax or local impact fee on gas drilling. Any such levy would have to rely on the DEP data base.

Mr. Krancer's agency discovered last summer that Cabot improperly had constructed a well in Susquehanna County and that at least three nearby water wells had been contaminated as a result. Then, the agency violated its own policy by not publicly posting the information, at the same time it signed off on Cabot's controversial decision to stop water deliveries relative to the Dimock Twp. wells.

The EPA's Dimock Twp. inquiry is valid. Mr. Krancer should get his own agency up to speed.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

----- Forwarded by Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US on 01/12/2012 10:39 AM -----

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
To: Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Nishitani/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Donna Heron/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Bonnie Smith <smith.bonnie@epa.gov>, Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Early/R3/USEPA/US, Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Amy Johansen/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Stacie Driscoll/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Helen Duteau/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Trish Taylor/R3/USEPA/US, capacasa.jon@epa.gov, Thomas Damm/CBP/USEPA/US@EPA, Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Brendan Gilfillan/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Smith/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/12/2012 07:33 AM
Subject: Bloomberg News Service (1-12) Fracking Political Support Unshaken by Doctors' Call for Ban

Fracking Political Support Unshaken by Doctors' Call for Ban

By Mark Drajem - Jan 11, 2012

Tremors in Ohio, murky drinking water in Pennsylvania and a call for a moratorium by doctors isn't eroding political support for hydraulic fracturing in the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration.

With the Environmental Protection Agency not scheduled to issue a report on fracking safety until 2014, the administration is resisting calls for curbs as reports of tainted water near gas wells mount.

The White House isn't considering a ban because spurring natural gas development "is critical not only to our energy security but our economic security as well," Clark Stevens, a White House spokesman, said in an e-mail.

Natural gas development using fracking has sparked a land rush, pushed down the price of the gas and created jobs in depressed communities in politically important swing states such as Pennsylvania and Ohio.

The use of fracking by companies including Chesapeake Energy Corp. (CHK) and Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. in states from Pennsylvania to Wyoming has been hailed as a boon by Republican lawmakers and President Barack Obama. Democrats in Congress such as Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts urged further restrictions on fracking, a call so far unheeded.

"There are a number of ways the federal government could do more," Kate Sinding, senior attorney at

the Natural Resources Defense Council in New York, said in an interview. “But there aren’t strong indications that this Congress or this administration are looking to do so.”

Moratorium Call

A group of doctors called on Jan. 9 for a moratorium on fracking in populated areas until the health effects of the process using a mix of water, chemicals and sand are better understood.

“We’ve got to push the pause button, and maybe we’ve got to push the stop button” on fracking, said Adam Law, an endocrinologist at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, in an interview at a conference in Arlington, Virginia, that was the first to examine criteria for studying the process.

The U.S. holds an estimated 2,543 trillion cubic feet of gas, enough to meet domestic demand for more than a century at current consumption rates, according to the Energy Department in Washington. Natural gas prices dropped 32 percent in 2011, driven mostly by an increase in fuel pulled from shale formations. Fracking accounts for a third of the U.S. gas supply, up from 14 percent in 2009.

In one of his first news conferences after Republicans won control of the House of Representatives in 2010, Obama cited the untapped supplies of natural gas, and pledged to work with Republicans to do “everything we can to develop those.”

‘Common-Sense Standards’

The administration is now “working across the federal government to conduct research and development, to provide support to state regulators, and to put in place common-sense standards to supplement state programs where necessary,” Stevens said.

The EPA is now moving forward with some regulations, which has prompted criticism from groups such as the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, the largest energy trade group in Washington.

Mounting public pressure will force Obama to issue tighter standards in areas where the federal government has authority, said Deb Nardone, director of the natural gas campaign at the San Francisco-based Sierra Club.

Calls for a moratorium “put the spotlight on the number of environmental or human health effects and pushes for a minimal national standard,” Nardone said in an interview.

Disclosing Chemicals

The EPA is weighing rules to force disclosure of the chemicals used to break up rock and free trapped gas, wastewater disposal, the use of diesel fuel in drilling and air emissions. Its major study will examine any contamination of the water in aquifers used for drinking.

As the EPA has moved to set some national standards, Republicans in Congress have pushed back.

“The EPA is really trying to come in and regulate what the state departments of the environment do best,” Jeff Urbanchuk, a spokesman for Representative Bill Shuster, a Pennsylvania Republican, said. “States know best.”

Companies are doing their part with voluntary disclosure programs of chemicals used in fracking, said

Chris Tucker, a spokesman for Energy in Depth, which represents companies such as Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake. Tucker replied to an e-mail sent to a Chesapeake spokesman asking for comment.

Disclosure isn't the only issue states are debating.

The state of Ohio issued a moratorium in Youngstown for new injection wells used in wastewater disposal from fracking after a 4-magnitude earthquake in the area on New Year's Eve, the 11th since injections began at the well in December 2010.

Wyoming Contamination

In December, the EPA linked fracking to groundwater contamination in Wyoming. In Dimock, Pennsylvania, where Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. drills for gas, residents say they were told by EPA officials at the end of last year that their water wasn't safe to drink. Local EPA officials initially offered to deliver water to them, and then called back later to rescind the offer. The EPA is now doing its own test of local wells.

The combination of local issues and a call for a moratorium by the doctors' group may prompt lawyers to file more suits and might influence the debate in statehouses and in Washington, said Greg Hoffnagle, a lawyer at Edwards Wildman in New York.

"It's going to embolden the plaintiffs' bar," he said in an interview. And if those lawsuits are successful, that will create a push for tighter laws and regulations, he said.

To contact the reporters on this story: Mark Drajem in Washington at mdrajem@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Jon Morgan at jmorgan97@bloomberg.net

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567